

# DDRS Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2006

## Vocational Rehabilitation Office Destroyed by Fire

On December 26, 2005 the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Office in Vincennes, IN was completely destroyed by fire. The Office was located in a large, historic building along with military recruiting offices and a local real estate office. Susan Carpenter, VR Area Supervisor, was on her way home from shopping with her daughters when she received a call letting her know that the office was on fire. She got to the site within 20 minutes, and quickly saw that the building was completely engulfed in flames.

The fire would destroy the entire building, leaving the VR staff without a main office, or many of the things needed to carry out their day to day work. No computers, no phone, no fax machine, no paper or pens. Thanks to a generous offer

from the WorkOne office just across the street, VR staff were back at work the very next day.

Since that time, they have temporarily relocated to the Southwest Regional Training Center located at 604 Quail Run Road.

Though everyone is grateful for the generosity of the training center staff, conditions are not ideal. All 10 staff must share one large room, have no computers, no fax machine, and must share the use of a copier with the training center staff. The largest challenge for the team is re-creating the client files lost in the fire. They must salvage what files they can, re-create files for all clients, and destroy any confidential information that may have been only partially

### Vincennes VR Office

**Staff:** 1 Area Supervisor, 6 Counselors and 3 Clerical Staff

**Clients:** Currently serve 604 customers.

**Service Area:** Knox, Davies, Gibson, and Green counties.

destroyed by the fire.

The State VR office is making the most of a bad situation by using the loss of the VR office as an opportunity to upgrade technology and experiment with a VR service that is less dependent on bricks and mortar. They are looking into a variety of technologies, including high speed or wireless internet, that will allow VR Counselors to enter client data as they work with an individual, rather than be required to go back to a main office to enter case information.

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## A Success Story: Achieving Gainful Employment

Christopher Schaaf was an eighth grader in 1990 and experienced his 1st transition IEP. Receiving a high school diploma and acquiring the skills necessary for life-long employment were goals Christopher and his family expressed to his school transition planning team.

The team decided that Christopher would pursue a 5-year, including summer school, high school program. This would allow him to earn the necessary credits for graduation with a diploma and attend the local Career Center's vocational education program. Christ-

opher graduated in 1996 from Warren Central High School in Indianapolis with his diploma and paid employment. Along the way, many people and services assisted Christopher with his employment goals. His school blended his daily schedule, (continued on page 5)

## George Braddock to present on the importance of an individual's physical environment

**Training Type:** This presentation will provide information to people who are providing support to people with developmental disabilities. Mr. Braddock will focus on how changes in the physical environment can reduce and often eliminate problems which may limit personal growth and independence in the home or workplace.

George Braddock pioneered the implementation of person-centered planning principles to homes for people with disabilities. In his 25 years as a licensed general contractor and housing consultant, he has been involved in more than 1,500 projects guided by these principles. Creative Housing Solutions was established so the knowledge and expertise gained from this significant work would be utilized elsewhere and continue to be improved upon. Work has been provided to families, provider agencies, non-profit housing organizations and governments. In addition to design and construction, his company has provided maintenance and repair services spanning decades on some projects.

Creative housing solutions provides consulting and architectural services in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Texas, Nevada, Delaware, South Dakota and California. Work includes design, specifications and recommendations that result in improvements to individual family homes, supported living arrangements in multi-family settings, existing large and small group homes.

**Sponsor:** DDRS—Bureau of Developmental Disabilities

**Audience:** Anyone who provides support to people with disabilities. A morning session will focus on families while an afternoon session will be geared toward providers.

### When/Where:

#### Family Session

February 14, 2006

Indiana Government Center South—Auditorium

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Sign in begins at 8:30 am

#### Provider Session

February 14, 2006

Indiana Government Center South—Conference Center Rooms A & B

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sign in begins at 12:30 pm

Both sessions require pre-registration. To register please contact Kelly Scott at 317-232-7842.

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### Understanding Seizure Disorders

**Training Type:** This training will help direct care staff to understand more about epilepsy, identify different types of seizures, and institute appropriate first aid. Approximately 10% of individuals with developmental disabilities also have a seizure disorder called epilepsy.

**Sponsor:** Indiana Epilepsy Services, a grant program funded through the Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, to provide education and support to those with epilepsy, their families, professionals, and the community.

**Audience:** Residential Services and Day Service Direct Care Staff; Developmental Disability Nurses; Case Managers; Employment Specialists; Vocational Rehabilitation Staff; and others who wish to know more about seizures.

#### When/Where:

February 15, 2006  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Memorial Hospital Auditorium  
615 N Michigan Street  
South Bend, IN  
Contact: Sue Bolin  
1-574-647-7639

February 17, 2006  
9:30 am to 11:30 am  
League for the Blind and Disabled Office  
5821 South Anthony Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Contact: Julia McQueen  
1-260-456-2971 ext. 3000

February 22, 2006  
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
InPact  
12300 Marshall Street  
Crown Point  
Contact: Sherri DiMarco  
1-219-662-0379

February 24, 2006  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Community Hospital East  
Medical Staff Conference Room  
1500 North Ritter Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN  
Contact: Kathy Forkner  
1-800-642-2608

February 28, 2006  
9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Wayne County  
1717 South L Street  
Richmond, IN  
Contact: Beth Schaffter  
1-800-777-6985

March 2, 2006  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
The Rehabilitation Center (Auditorium)  
3701 Bellemeade Avenue  
Evansville, IN  
Contact: Crystal Stock  
1-812-471-2203

**Training is free of charge, but pre-registration is mandatory.** Please contact the person identified for the city and date that you would like to attend. You must register at least two days in advance.

Indiana Epilepsy Services is pleased with the positive response to the Understanding Seizure Disorders workshops. There has been a great turnout for workshops and we are pleased that the classes are helping others understand more about seizures. However, we have noticed many agencies sending new employees and trainers to workshops. We want to reinforce that caring for a consumer in residential and day services requires close attention to the specific needs and plans for that individuals, which are developed by each agency. In some cases, an individual's seizure management plan may be different than national guidelines for seizure first aid and management, which are the basis for our training. These workshops are not a substitute for the individualized care plans that you must have for a consumer in your care. The individualized care plan always takes precedence and every caregiver should be familiar with it. Thank you, we look forward to continuing to assist you through our workshops and with any other help we can provide.

## New Provider Orientation

**Training Type:** Mandatory session covering the provider application process for services that require submission of an application or proposal. This session will include presentations by the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS), Bureau of Quality Improvement Services (BQIS), and Electronic Data Systems.

### New Providers

Attendance at an orientation session for new prospective providers of BDDS services is required and includes information regarding the BDDS services that only require submission of a proposal. This session will also include information regarding the DD and Medical Model Waiver services.

Application packets will be distributed to new providers during the orientation. A company representative must attend the mandatory orientation session in order to receive the application. However, only one person per company should attend.

### Existing Providers

BDDS Approved Providers who desire to providing additional services may also submit applications during the appropriate acceptance period. Existing providers are not required to attend the orientation sessions. If they desire to add new services but do not attend an orientation session, the provider may request an application form by calling Patricia Frey 317-232-7127. Please leave both a caller name and company name. Applications will be sent to the current address in the provider database. Applications may only be submitted during the designated acceptance period.

**Sponsor:** DDRS—BDDS

**Audience:** Any new prospective provider or existing provider looking to provide additional services.

### **When/Where:**

March 14, 2006

9:00 am to 4:00 pm (registration starts at 8:30)

Indiana Government Center South-Auditorium

### **Important Dates:**

New prospective providers will be able to submit proposals from April 3, 2006 through May 1, 2006.

**To register:** Please contact Kelly Scott at 317-232-7842.

BDDS will be accepting applications/proposals for the following services:

Applied Behavior Analysis (Autism Waiver) 5-32  
 Behavioral Support Services (level 1) (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) -18  
 Behavioral Support Services (level 2) (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) -5-4  
 Case Management—Monthly-CMAN (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers) 5-5  
 Case Management—Annual Plan Facilitation—CMNA (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers)  
 Environmental Modifications—E-Mods (Autism and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-11  
 E-Mods Assessment, Inspection and Training (Autism and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-11  
 Health Care Coordination (State Funded) 5-14  
 Music Therapy (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-15  
 Occupational Therapy—OT (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-17  
 Personal Emergency Response Systems (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-18  
 Physical Therapy—PT (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-19  
 Recreational Therapy—RT (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-22  
 Respite—Home Health Agency/Individual (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-26  
 Specialized Medical Equipment/Supplies—SMES (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded)  
 Speech/Language Therapy—ST (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-28  
 Targeted Case Management—Deinstitutional—TCM (Autism and DD Waivers) 5-5  
 Therapy Services (Autism, SSW and DD Waivers; State Funded) 5-21

## A Success Story Continued...

allowing him to attend academic classes in the morning and vocational education programs in the afternoon. In his junior and senior years of high school, Christopher experienced a variety of paid part-time jobs that included retail stocking, grocery store bagger / maintenance, restaurant busboy, and hospital maintenance. Because of these work experiences, Christopher was able to make a very clear choice that he didn't enjoy restaurant employment. He graduated in 1996 with a paid part-time job at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis. In addition to school supports Christopher received support from Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the job coaching services of Noble of Indiana. He also received additional income from Social Security Income benefits (SSI). Each service was in place by the beginning of his senior year of high school and made it possible for him to transition smoothly from high school to the working world.

Christopher now has a full-time job with Kroger grocery store in Bloomington, Indiana. Christopher enjoys employer paid health and dental insurance, 2 weeks of paid vacation, 2 paid personal days off and potential hourly pay raises bi-annually. Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Options for Better Living's employment specialists, Indiana Works Benefits counselor and the Support Services Waiver are key supports for him. As a result, Christopher will no longer receive Social Security Income benefits as of January 2006.

***“Christopher now has a full-time job ...health and dental insurance, 2 weeks paid vacation...”***

*This story was contributed by Christopher's father Larry Schaaf*

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### What Services Can Your Local VR Office Provide?

The goal of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to assist people with disabilities to obtain gainful employment. VR assists people with disabilities in making informed career choices and utilizing available support services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. Eligible individuals work with a VR counselor to set employment goals that are based on their interests and abilities. VR offers a long list of services, including vocational counseling, school to work transition planning, job training, supported employment and assistance with post-secondary education. VR services are available to individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that creates a substantial impediment to employment.

### Positive Behavior Support Training

**Training Type:** This curriculum teaches direct support staff to utilize proactive, positive supports when teaching routine tasks, leisure activities, social skills, or to prevent and/or respond to aggressive behavior or self-injury. This skill building model teaches staff to examine the cause of the problem behavior, eliminate the factors that cause it and prevent it from happening again.

**Sponsor:** Southeast Indiana Outreach Services

**Audience:** Behavior Consultants, QMRPs, Case Managers, Direct Support Staff and anyone who works with people with developmental disabilities. Psychologists & Behavior Consultants can also become certified to train staff in positive behavior support by completing this class.

**When/Where:**

February 20 & 21, 2006  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Holiday Inn Conference Center  
4101 U.S. Hwy. 41 North  
Evansville, IN 47711

March 21 & 22, 2006  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Damar  
6324 Kentucky Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46221

**Contact:** For additional information or to register for this course please contact Patty Cook, Outreach Training Director at 812-265-7490 or Lois Robinson at 812-265-7489.

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